

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 044898

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ORIGIN ARA-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GPALAZZOLO

APPROVED BY ARA/CAR: JRBURKE

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R 272218Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS STATE 044898

FOLLOWING REPEAT CURACAO 109 COMCARIBSEAFRON STATE FEB 21:

QUOTE

UNCLAS CURACAO 109

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EWWT, SWEL, NA

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FRESH WATER FOR BONAIRE

COMCARIBSEAFRON FOR ADMIRAL RAMAGE

DEPARTMENT STATE FOR ARA/CAR FOR PALAZZOLO

1. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NETHERLANDS ANTILLES HAS URGENTLY ASKED THE CONSULATE GENERAL IF IT CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE IN FINDING A US GOVERNMENT AGENCY (DOD) OR PRIVATE FIRM WHICH COULD POSSIBLY SELL IT NINE THOUSAND TONS OF FRESH POTABLE WATER TO BE DELIVERED TO THE ISLAND OF BONAIRE WITHIN 15 DAYS. THE PROBLEM IS THIS: BONAIRE NOW HAS A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY OF ONLY 19 DAYS. THE TOURIST HOTELS ON THE ISLAND ARE FULLY BOOKED AND THE WATER SUPPLY IS ALSO HEAVILY TAXED BY THE NEW OIL STORAGE HOLDING TANK PROJECT UNDER CONSTRUCTION THERE. WITHIN TWO MONTHS THE PROBLEM IS EXPECTED TO BE SOLVED AS NEW ADDITIONS TO THE BONAIRE WATER EVAPORATION PLANT ARE UNDERWAY. IT SEEMS THAT BONAIRE PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN SUPPLIED IN EMERGENCIES BY A FIRM FROM PUERTO RICO BUT THIS FIRM NOW INSISTS ON A SIX MONTH CONTRACT WHICH

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PAGE 02 STATE 044898

IS NOT NEEDED OR REQUIRED BY THE GNA AND WOULD BE MOST COSTLY.

BONAIRE ONLY REQUIRES ONE SHIPMENT OF NINE THOUSAND TONS OF WATER FOR WHICH THEY ARE WILLING TO PAY, BUT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE WATER ARRIVE WITHIN THE NEXT FORTNIGHT BECAUSE AS BEFORE STATED BONAIRE,S SUPPLY OF WATER WILL RUN OUT WITHIN 19 DAYS. IF IT IS POSSIBLE FOR ANY US GOVERNMENT AGENCY TO ASSIST IN THIS MATTER, IT WOULD INDEED BE A FINE GESTURE OF GOOD WILL TO THE FRIENDLY NETHERLANDS ANTILLES AND THE HARD PRESSED ISLAND OF BONAIRE.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: EARLIEST IMMEDIATE REPLY FROM COMCARIBSEAFRON OR ANY US GOVERNMENT AGENCY OR PRIVATE FIRM THAT THE DEPT. MIGHT BE ABLE TO LOCATE TO ASSIST IN THIS MATER WOULD BE APPRECIATED. A PRICE QUOTE FOR THE WATER DELIVERED OR BONAIRE SHOULD BE INCLUDED AS WELL AS THE DATE THE WATER COULD BE DELIVERED. LOFTON UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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